

Situational Measures of Normative Language Views in Relation to Person, Place and Topic among Puerto Rican Bilinguals

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In recent years, several studies have reported on the relationship between verbal behavior and a variety of psychological and social factors, such as the setting, the roles of the participants, the topics of conversation, the functions of interaction, and the views of interlocutors concerning each of the foregoing (ERVIN-TRIPP, 1964). LABOV (1964), for example, found a series of phonological alternates in New York English speech which covaried with elicitation methods (that implied varying situational contexts of verbal interaction) and the socioeconomic status of the speaker. FISCHER (1958), who studied the alternation between the use of the suffixes 'in' and 'ing' by New England children found that 'in' was used to a greater degree than 'ing' by boys than by girls, by children of lower than of higher socioeconomic backgrounds, in informal than in formal portions of the interview, and with informal verbs, such as 'chewin' and 'hittin' than with formal ones, such as 'correcting' and 'reading'. BROWN and GILMAN (1960) found that the use of the pronouns 'tu' or 'vous' (and their corresponding verb forms) in several Romance languages depended on relationships of power and solidarity existing between interlocutors.

The social and psychological factors that are signaled linguistically by stylistic variation within a single language are frequently expressed by a

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